

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00

DRC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8843

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, EEC, US, BE

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE'S REMARKS ON  
US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF RELEVANT PORTIONS OF AN EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE PUBLISHED IN "LA  
LIBRE BELGIQUE" OF OCTOBER 9.

QUESTION: YOU ARE GOING TO MEET IN WASHINGTON WITH THE  
AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. KISSINGER. WILL YOU RAISE  
THE SUBJECT OF THE PROJECTED MEETING BETWEEN THE NINE MEMBERS  
OF THE ENLARGED EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND PRESIDENT NIXON?

ANSWER: THIS WILL BE THE ESSENTIAL POINT OF OUR CONVERSATION,  
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF RELATIONS BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE  
UNITED STATES IN THE BOSOM OF NATO.

QUESTION: WILL YOU TELL MR. KISSINGER THAT THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITY IS READY TO RECEIVE MR. NIXON NOW OR THAT IT  
WOULD BE BETTER IF HE CAME LATER?

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ANSWER: I BELIEVE THAT THE DATE AND THE QUESTIONS OF

PROCEDURE ARE NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTERS. THE ESSENTIAL THING, AND THAT WHICH CONCERNS ME, IS TO KNOW IF THE DIALOGUE THAT HAS HAPPILY BEGUN CAN CONTINUE AND LEAD US TO POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS.

QUESTION: ONE SPEAKS HOWEVER OF A EUROPEAN RETICENCE TO RECEIVE MR. NIXON NOW. WOULD NOT THAT BE BECAUSE EUROPE IS NOT YET READY TO SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT?

ANSWER: I DON'T THINK THAT IS THE ONLY REASON. BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT AMONG THE NINE COUNTRIES OF THE COMMUNITY, WE ARE ONLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS POLITICAL ENTENTE WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES. YOU KNOW THAT IT HAS TAKEN US SEVERAL MONTHS TO AGREE ON THE DEFINITION OF THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY. ALSO, SOME MORE TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO BRING US INTO AGREEMENT ON A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THINGS. BUT THE ESSENTIAL THING IS THAT UNTIL NOW WE WERE NOT AGREED TO SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE TO OUR AMERICAN INTERLOCUTOR, WHILE NOW THIS DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN PRINCIPLE.

QUESTION: TO RAISE THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM, WHAT IS YOUR FEELING ABOUT THE AMERICAN PROPOSITION FOR A "NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER"?

ANSWER: ONE MUST NOT ATTACHE TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO FORMULAS. THAT WHICH IS IMPORTANT IS TO SEE ON WHAT NEW BASES A CONCERTATION CAN BE ARRANGED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES OF NATO ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. BOOCHEVER

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